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OCT 24 2003

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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED
EXAMINING GROUP 1763**

PATENT

Customer Number 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 08038.0043

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Yasuo KOBAYASHI et al.)
Application Serial No. 09/667,768) Group Art Unit: 1763
Filed: September 22, 2000) Examiner: Moore, K.
For: PROCESSING APPARATUS AND)
PROCESSING METHOD)

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

In reply to the Final Office Action dated April 21, 2003, the period for response having been extended by three months with a Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, please amend the application as follows.

In order to maintain pendency of the present application, a Notice of Appeal and associated appeal fee are also filed with this Amendment.

Amendments to the Specification are included in this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings are discussed and further included in the attached drawing sheets.

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Remarks follow the amendment sections of this paper.

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